

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

MRS. WETMORE CROSS-EXAMINED.
HER VERACITY IMPAECED—INDICTED FOR ATTEMPTED BLACKMAIL.

Many well-dressed people flocked to Part II, Court of General Sessions, yesterday, where Mrs. Anna E. Wetmore was on trial for attempting to extort from marrying Nathan H. Hawes, knowing him to be already married. Mrs. Wetmore sat part of the afternoon with her bonnet off, displaying a mass of light hair arranged with studied negligence. In one corner of the room sat Nathan L. Hawes, the woman who holds a first mortgage on him in the hope of a marriage certificate which would make him "sufficient" of the wife he wedded. Anna, On the bench sat the Honorable S. W. Burdett, Smith, Assistant United States Attorney-General.

The cross-examination of Mrs. Wetmore was continued. She denied even having been in Movements Prison, Philadelphia, or under indictment in Lawrence or Leavenworth, Kansas. She denied frequenting the "Tun" Gould's house store. "To her sorrow," she admitted knowing several men, by her whom she suffered financially. These were Joseph P. Peacock, George L. Hooper, and a man named Benkert. She said that she had \$10,000 in cash, \$10,000 in business, and had bought about over a large quantity of debts, mortgages, bonds, due bills and promissory notes retained by him. When asked if she ever lived in Dalton, Ga., as "Mollie Gentiles," the wife of a Rebeccah, she said that she never had, and knew not Captain Thomas Feldstein, nor Lieutenant Frank Suppins of the 68th New-York Volunteers.

"Are you a niece of President Johnson?" Mr. Townsend asked.

"My mother was his sister," the witness answered proudly, "and I visited him in Washington when he was a Senator, and also at his home in Greenville, Tenn."

Frank Suppins, detective at Lion Park Brewery, testified that he knew the defendant as "Mollie Gentiles" in Dalton, Ga., in 1865, at the time when she testified that she was in Macon, Ga.

Council Drummond, chief of the United States Secret Service, Treasury Department, testified that he knew Mrs. Wetmore in Philadelphia in 1878. Her reputation for veracity was bad. She had informed him that one Benkert was smuggling at the rate of \$100,000 a year. Mrs. Wetmore was afterward indicted for attempting to blackmail Benkert, and she stayed eleven for conviction and for a penitentiary.

Mrs. Hawes, of No. 61 Lawrence-st., Brooklyn, a little black-eyed woman with olive complexion, testified that she was married to Nathan L. Hawes in 1859, and produced her certificate. Mrs. Wetmore came to her house in Brooklyn, and cried when she saw the witness's marriage certificate.

"I met again with a man whom she called her 'Uncle John,' and said that he wanted to take my certificate to send to France to prove that I was married. I told her I could do that myself, when the time came. She said that she wouldn't trouble me any more. I could have 'Uncle John' all day."

Edward Franklauer testified that he never told Mrs. Wetmore that Hawes was a married man.

Nathan L. Hawes was recalled and identified two or three letters received from him in which he spoke of his darling little husband. He denied the Coney Island story, and also that he ever introduced the defendant as his wife. He did not know Assistant District-Attorney John U. Shorter, of Brooklyn, and never paid him \$600 to "railroad" Mrs. Wetmore.

PLANNING FOR THE NEW AQUEDUCT.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON'S REPORT—COST OF THE WORK FROM HIGH BRIDGE TO YONKERS.

At the meeting of the Aqueduct Commissioners yesterday H. O. Thompson reported that they had examined the plans and specifications for the aqueduct intended between the Harlem River and the north boundary of the city, and approved them, excepting that he was opposed to changing the form of the aqueduct in any part of it; that he was in favor of leaving the shaft open, instead of having man-holes; that he believed the aqueduct Commissioners should have power to designate the powers and duties of the engineers; that the same price should be paid for masonry, for locking and for lining; and that the engineers should not have power to change the size and grade of the aqueduct. The report was referred to Commissioners Dowd and the Associate Engineer Church and Consulting Engineer Davis.

A letter from William C. Kingsley, president of the Brooklyn Bridge trustees, was read in which he stated that he had examined the plans and found no fault with them except that they were in some instances "rather severe on the contractor."

A report from Chief Engineer Church was submitted asserting the importance of having the aqueduct terminate in a reservoir whereby the pressure might be equalized, and urging the necessity of making a connection through mains with the reservoir in Central Park.

The Chief Engineer also reported in regard to the work beginning at a point about 75 feet west of shaft No. 24 near High Bridge to a point 2,014 feet south of the boundary between Yonkers and New-York. The total distance is divided into four sections. The total distance is 2,415 feet. Section A, 1,830 feet long, would have three shafts and its estimated cost is \$1,246,000. Section B would be 12,300 feet long with two shafts, and its estimated cost is \$1,343,000, making the total estimated cost \$2,589,000. These figures, however, were not adopted by the commissioners. The Chief Engineer asked an appropriation of \$600 for two transit instruments, a cross-section rod and pole, and was referred to the Finance Committee.

Engines of Construction Craven, who has been in Washington to examine the progress of the aqueduct, reported that it was proceeding much slower than had been anticipated on account of the inadequate measures adopted. The greatest rapidity of progress had been 185 feet in one month. It is now about 100 feet a month, and in the mining tunnel of the same size as the Washington aqueduct, seven by eleven feet, seventy-eight feet in a month. He calculated that in the section of work reported upon by the Chief Engineer a progress of one mile per month is all that can be expected, and the first completion of the aqueduct will be in about twelve months.

The Commissioners will meet again to consider the report of the Chief Engineer, and the contract will be let to the lowest bidder.

DEMANDING AN INVESTIGATION.

STRANGE LETTERS SENT TO A MEMBER OF THE DOCK BOARD—NO RULE AGAINST BORROWING MONEY.

Dock-Master Gilson,¹ said Commissioner Vorhies at the meeting of the Dock Board yesterday, reported an anonymous letter sent to him, purporting to be from the Board of Health at the foot of West Thirty-third Street, Hayes: "In the river, polluting the poor, great quantities of the internal parts of animals in various stages of decomposition are constantly floating and the dead and rotting parts are hanging, some of which, filled by the sun, look like a network of cords, while the river is further defiled by liquid filth from the gas works, covering the water with a scum."

"Don't read any more," interrupted Mr. Laine.

"It makes me sick," said Gilson.

The commissioners of the Dock Board presented their claim for the use of the boardwalk at the foot of the slip. They said that greatly exaggerated reports had been circulated about them; that they formerly paid \$2,000 a year for boardwalk on the bulkhead, which would not pay any more than \$1,000.

The head of the slip was so blocked by a

a cleaning company that they could not get in and out of it with boats, and their business had been injured.

Commissioner Stark said that the condition of the bulkhead was such that he would not consent to the dealers remaining there.

Commissioner Stark said that the dealers had been given sufficient warning, and it was now time that the bulkhead should be cleared. The Board concurred in this view.

W. H. Lasher, assistant engineer of the canal, was called before the Board. He said that he had advanced the charge in several instances, but said in defense that he knew of no rule prohibiting one from borrowing money.

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